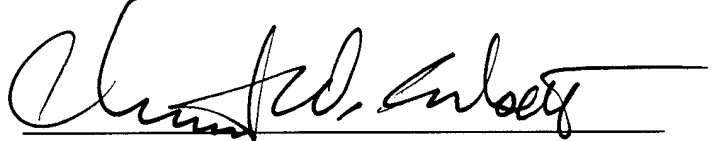


Remarks

Pursuant to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 12, 2001, applicant hereby elects the Group I claims 1-3, 6-8, and 13-19. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to be directed to the nucleic acid sequences specific to Group I and thus are no longer linked to the Group II claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current election and amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

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Agent for Applicant

In the Claims:

Claims 4-5, 9-12, and 20-25 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An oligonucleotide primer having up to 40 bases and comprising the sequence SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:15; or SEQ ID NO:16[; **SEQ ID NO:27; SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:32; SEQ ID NO:33; OR SEQ ID NO:34]**.

13. (Once Amended) A method of detecting bacteria in a liquid or liquified sample by polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

providing a liquid or liquified sample;
recovering bacteria from the liquid or liquified sample;
lysing the bacteria to provide a DNA sample;
selecting a **[pair of]** target **[genes]** gene and selecting
a target DNA sequence in **[each]** the target gene;
incubating the DNA sample under amplification conditions
with a DNA polymerase and a primer pair for
amplifying **[each]** the target DNA sequence; and
detecting the presence of amplified DNA as an indication
of the presence of bacteria carrying the selected
target DNA **[sequences]** sequence, wherein the **[pair
of]** target **[genes comprise]** gene is the *lamB* gene
[to detect] of *Escherichia coli* **[and the
transposase gene Tn1546 to detect** *Enterococcus
faecalis* and/or *Enterococcus faecium]*.